OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN ALBERTA

Lost-Time Claims, Disabling Injury Claims and Claim Rates

Wholesale and Retail Industries 2006 to 2010

WORK SAFE ALBERTA

Summer 2011

Government of Alberta

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Highlights 2

1. Industry Sector Summary 4

2. Industry Sector Analysis 6

3. Demographics of Injured Workers 11

4. Injury and Disease Analysis 13

5. Occupational Fatalities 19

6. Certificate of Recognition 21

References 23

Appendix A: Terms, Definitions, and Formulas 24

Appendix B: Wholesale and Retail Industries WCB Industry Codes 27

Contact Information 29

HIGHLIGHTS

Lower lost-time and disabling injury rates in 2010.

- In 2010, the Wholesale and Retail sector lost-time claim rate decreased by 15.3% to 1.52 per 100 person-years worked, from 1.80 per 100 person-years worked in 2009. The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 1.41 per 100 person-years worked.
- The disabling injury rate decreased by 9.5%, from 3.08 per 100 person-years worked in 2009 to 2.79 in 2010. The average disabling injury rate for all sectors in the province was 2.67 per 100 person-years worked.
- The decreases in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in 2010 were the result of decreases in the numbers of lost-time and disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims decreased by 14.0% and disabling injury claims by 8.2%.

Small size employers experienced the lowest injury rates.

- Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate in 2010, at 0.94 per 100 person-years worked.
- Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest disabling injury rate in 2010, at 1.22 per 100 person-years worked.

Injury rates decreased in all the sub-sectors.

- The Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector had the lowest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates at 0.32 and 0.50 per 100 person-years worked in 2010.
- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury, accounting for 53.3% of the disabling injury claims submitted in the Wholesale and Retail sector. The back (including spine and spinal cord) was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 26.2% of all disabling injury claims.
- In 2010, the primary sources of injury causing disabling injury claims were containers, accounting for 21.0% of the disabling injury claims, followed by persons, plants, animals and minerals, 20.0%. The most common type of event or exposure was bodily reaction or exertion which accounted for 49.6% of disabling injury claims.

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2010 data beside 2009 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.
- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2010 and were accepted as lost-time or modified work claims by Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB) as of March 31, 2011.
- The person-years worked estimates in the *OID 2010 Wholesale and Retail Industries* report have been provided by the WCB back to 2006, thus previous years OID Wholesale and Retail industries report numbers and rates will not be comparable.
- Injury claim rates based on a small number of person-years worked are too volatile to make valid comparisons over time. Therefore, claim rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years worked.
- Estimates of year-over-year change for rates presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures. Percentages displayed in tables may also not total 100, due to rounding.
- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of lost-time claims per 100 person-years worked, the disabling injury rate is the number of disabling injury claims per 100 person-years worked. Fatality rates are expressed as the number of fatalities per million person-years worked.
- Analyses by industry are based on WCB industry classification and aggregation. For more information see the industry rate manual on the WCB website.
- Analyses by occupation group are based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC provides a standard list of occupations across the country. For more information see http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC.
- Occupational injuries and diseases listed throughout this report are based on the Z795 Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information produced by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) for categorizing occupational injury and disease. For information see http://www.shopcsa.ca/onlinestore/GetCatalogItemDetails.asp?mat=2416404.
- Terms, definitions and formulas used throughout this report are described in Appendix A.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

In 2010, the lost-time claim rate for the Wholesale and Retail sector was 1.52 per 100 person-years worked.

The Wholesale and Retail sector lost-time claim rate decreased in 2010 by 15.3% to 1.52 per 100 person-years worked, from 1.80 in 2009. The disabling injury rate decreased by 9.5%, to 2.79 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 1.1). The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 1.41 per 100 person-years worked and the average disabling injury rate was 2.67 per 100 person-years worked.

The decreases in the 2010 lost-time claim and disabling injury rates for the Wholesale and Retail sector were the result of decreases in the number of lost-time and disabling injury claims. The decrease in claims was a result of decreases in all the sub-sectors.

Table 1.1
Wholesale and Retail Industries – Alberta: 2009 - 2010

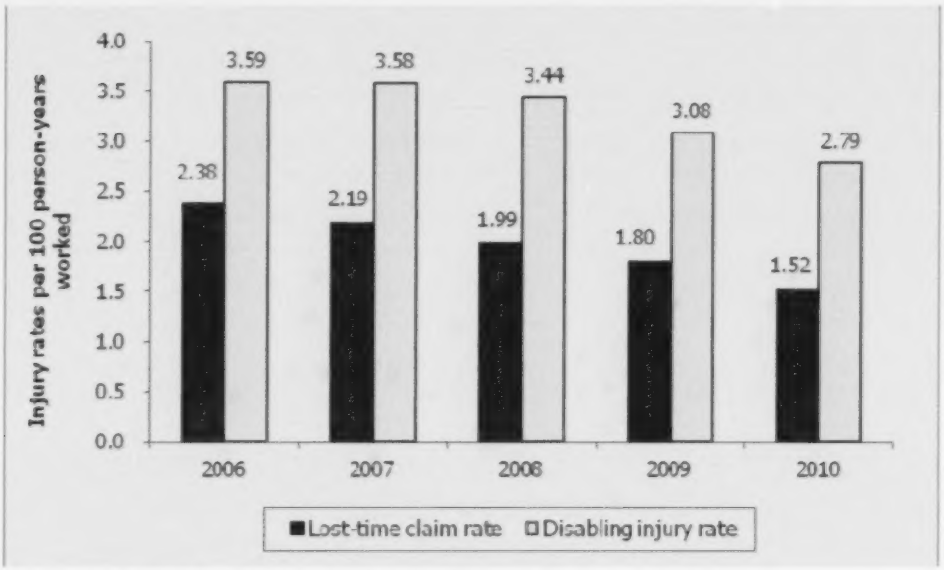
	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	304,883	**309,357**	1.5%
Lost-time claims	5,479	**4,710**	-14.0%
Lost-time claim rate	**1.80**	**1.52**	**-15.3%**
Modified-work claims	7,070	**6,977**	-1.3%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	3,152	**3,061**	-2.9%
Disabling injury claims	9,397	**8,626**	-8.2%
Disabling injury rate	**3.08**	**2.79**	**-9.5%**
Days-lost (LTC)	99,544	**83,961**	-15.7%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$29,425,280	**$29,169,605**	-0.9%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Since 2006 (see Chart 1.1), the lost-time claim rate decreased by 36.1% and the disabling injury rate decreased by 22.3% in the Wholesale and Retail sector.

Chart 1.1

Injury Rates for Wholesale and Retail Industries - Alberta: 2006 - 2010



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Rates by Employer Size

In the Wholesale and Retail sector, employers with greater than 100 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate at 1.87 per 100 person-years worked, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked, 1.44. Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate, 0.94 (see Table 1.2). Disabling injury rates were higher for employers with greater than 100 person-years at 3.92 per 100 person-years worked, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked at 2.21 per 100 person-years worked.

Table 1.2

Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rate by Size of Employer-Alberta: 2010

Size of Employer	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years worked	385	504	0.94	1.22
10 to 19 person-years worked	316	431	1.18	1.60
20 to 39 person-years worked	389	558	1.22	1.75
40 to 99 person-years worked	723	1,113	1.44	2.21
100 or more person-years worked	2,847	5,970	1.87	3.92
Unspecified	50	50	N/A*	N/A*

*These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years worked equal to zero
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Yard and Home Improvement Centres had the highest lost-time claim rate of all the Wholesale and Retail sub-sectors.

Table 2.1 shows that lost-time claim rates have decreased for all the sub-sectors since 2006. For example, the Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector displayed a 45.6% decrease in the lost-time claim rate from the rate in 2006. The Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector had the lowest lost-time claim rate in each year. In 2010, the Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector experienced the lowest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates at 0.32 and 0.50 per 100 person-years respectively (see Chart 2.1).

Table 2.1

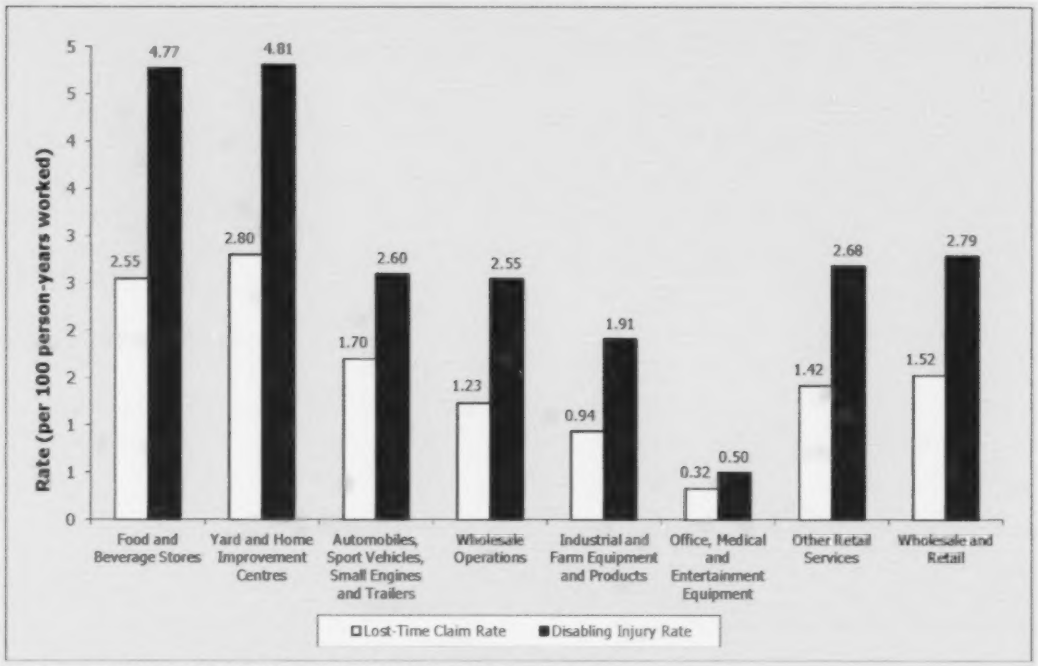
Lost-Time Claim Rate by Wholesale and Retail Sub-Sector — Alberta: 2006-2010

Sub-Sector	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Wholesale and Retail	**2.38**	**2.19**	**1.99**	**1.80**	**1.52**
Wholesale Operations	2.30	2.04	1.75	1.48	**1.23**
Food and Beverage Stores	4.69	3.94	3.14	2.89	**2.55**
Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products	1.72	1.48	1.54	1.22	**0.94**
Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers	2.48	2.32	2.03	1.88	**1.70**
Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment	0.38	0.34	0.44	0.47	**0.32**
Yard and Home Improvement Centres	3.71	3.38	3.52	2.94	**2.80**
Other Retail Services	1.77	1.86	1.81	1.65	**1.42**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Chart 2.1

Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Wholesale and Retail Sub-Sector — Alberta: 2010



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Wholesale Operations

In 2010, the Wholesale Operations sub-sector had a lost-time claim rate of 1.23 per 100 person-years, lower than the average rate for all sectors in the province. The disabling injury rate was 2.55, lower than the provincial rate of 2.67 per 100 person-years worked. Over the past five years, the lost-time claim rate for the Wholesale Operations sub-sector has decreased from 2.30 in 2006 to 1.23 per 100 person-years worked in 2010.

Table 2.2

Wholesale Operations — Alberta: 2009-2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	27,146	**27,062**	-0.3%
Lost-time claims	403	**333**	-17.4%
Lost-time claim rate	**1.48**	**1.23**	**-17.1%**
Modified-work claims	633	**579**	-8.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	224	**223**	-0.4%
Disabling injury claims	812	**689**	-15.1%
Disabling injury rate	**2.99**	**2.55**	**-14.9%**
Days-lost (LTC)	8,067	**6,751**	-16.3%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$2,889,766	**$2,337,952**	-19.1%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Food and Beverage Stores

The lost-time claim rate for the Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector decreased by 11.7% from 2.89 per 100 person-years worked in 2009 to 2.55 per 100 person-years in 2010. The disabling injury rate has decreased by 3.1% to 4.77 in 2010. Between 2006 and 2010, the lost-time claim rate in the Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector decreased by 45.6%, from 4.69 in 2006 to 2.55 per 100 person-years worked in 2010.

Table 2.3
Food and Beverage Stores — Alberta: 2009-2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	54,478	**51,693**	-5.1%
Lost-time claims	1,573	**1,318**	-16.2%
Lost-time claim rate	**2.89**	**2.55**	**-11.7%**
Modified-work claims	2,146	**2,090**	-2.6%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	1,035	**941**	-9.1%
Disabling injury claims	2,684	**2,467**	-8.1%
Disabling injury rate	**4.93**	**4.77**	**-3.1%**
Days-lost (LTC)	26,087	**22,445**	-14.0%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$6,257,698	**$5,964,878**	-4.7%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products

In 2010, the lost-time claim rate for the Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products sub-sector was 0.94 per 100 person-years worked, below the provincial figure of 1.41. The disabling injury rate decreased by 24.1%, from 2.52 in 2009 to 1.91 per 100 person-years worked in 2010. Over the past five years, the lost-time claim rate decreased from 1.72 in 2006 to 0.94 per 100 person-years worked in 2010.

Table 2.4
Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products — Alberta: 2009-2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	50,727	**54,724**	7.9%
Lost-time claims	618	**512**	-17.2%
Lost-time claim rate	**1.22**	**0.94**	**-23.2%**
Modified-work claims	970	**812**	-16.3%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	311	**279**	-10.3%
Disabling injury claims	1,277	**1,045**	-18.2%
Disabling injury rate	**2.52**	**1.91**	**-24.1%**
Days-lost (LTC)	15,174	**11,370**	-25.1%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$5,479,576	**$7,030,203**	28.3%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers

In 2010, the Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers sub-sector had a lost-time claim and disabling injury rate of 1.70 and 2.60 per 100 person-years worked, respectively. Both rates decreased by 9.6% and 7.3% from the rate in 2009 respectively. Over the past five years, the lost-time claim rate decreased by 31.4% from 2.48 in 2006 to 1.70 per 100 person-years worked in 2010.

Table 2.5
Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers — Alberta: 2009-2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	49,275	**49,129**	-0.3%
Lost-time claims	926	**835**	-9.8%
Lost-time claim rate	**1.88**	**1.70**	**-9.6%**
Modified-work claims	827	**868**	5.0%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	373	**427**	14.5%
Disabling injury claims	1,380	**1,276**	-7.5%
Disabling injury rate	**2.80**	**2.60**	**-7.3%**
Days-lost (LTC)	19,316	**16,421**	-15.0%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$5,933,987	**$6,383,658**	7.6%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment

In 2010, the Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector's lost-time claim rate was 0.32 per 100 person-years worked, while the disabling injury rate was 0.50. Both were the lowest rates of all sub-sectors in the Wholesale and Retail sector. Between 2006 and 2010, the lost-time claim rate for the Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector was the lowest in the Wholesale and Retail sector.

Table 2.6
Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment — Alberta: 2009-2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	21,086	**24,046**	14.0%
Lost-time claims	100	**78**	-22.0%
Lost-time claim rate	**0.47**	**0.32**	**-31.6%**
Modified-work claims	115	**88**	-23.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	60	**46**	-23.3%
Disabling injury claims	155	**120**	-22.6%
Disabling injury rate	**0.74**	**0.50**	**-32.1%**
Days-lost (LTC)	1,939	**1,219**	-37.1%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$588,339	**$380,195**	-35.4%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Yard and Home Improvement Centres

The Yard and Home Improvement Centres sub-sector had a lost-time claim rate of 2.80 per 100 person-years worked in 2010, a decrease of 4.7% from 2009. The disabling injury rate also decreased by 1.6% to 4.81 per 100 person-years worked. The decreases were caused by an 8.7% decrease in lost-time claims and a 5.7% decrease in disabling injury claims. Between 2006 and 2010, the lost-time claim rate for the Yard and Home Improvement Centres sub-sector has decreased by 24.4%, from 3.71 to 2.80 per 100 person-years worked.

Table 2.7
Yard and Home Improvement Centres — Alberta: 2009-2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	13,329	**12,779**	-4.1%
Lost-time claims	392	**358**	-8.7%
Lost-time claim rate	**2.94**	**2.80**	**-4.7%**
Modified-work claims	501	**513**	2.4%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	241	**256**	6.2%
Disabling injury claims	652	**615**	-5.7%
Disabling injury rate	**4.89**	**4.81**	**-1.6%**
Days-lost (LTC)	7,005	**6,151**	-12.2%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$2,095,168	**$1,648,406**	-21.3%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Other Retail Services

The lost-time claim rate for the Other Retail Services sub-sector was 1.42 per 100 person-years worked in 2010 while the disabling injury rate was 2.68 per 100 person-years worked. Both rates decreased by 14.1% and 2.1% from the rate in 2009 respectively.

Table 2.8
Other Retail Services — Alberta: 2009-2010

	2009	2010	% Change
Person-years worked	88,842	**89,924**	1.2%
Lost-time claims	1,467	**1,276**	-13.0%
Lost-time claim rate	**1.65**	**1.42**	**-14.1%**
Modified-work claims	1,878	**2,027**	7.9%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	908	**889**	-2.1%
Disabling injury claims	2,437	**2,414**	-0.9%
Disabling injury rate	**2.74**	**2.68**	**-2.1%**
Days-lost (LTC)	21,956	**19,604**	-10.7%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$6,180,746	**$5,424,313**	-12.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2010, Sales and Service Occupations accounted for 17.8% of total lost-time claims, 18.6% of disabling injury claims and 11.0% of those employed in the Wholesale and Retail sector. Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks accounted for 19.7% of lost-time claims, 18.8% of disabling injury claims and 24.0% of employment in the Wholesale and Retail sector (see Table 3.1).

Table 3.1
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Selected Occupation Group — Alberta: 2010

Occupation Group	Lost-time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Sales & Service Occupations N.E.C.*	17.8%	18.6%	11.0%
Retail Salespersons and Sales Clerks	19.7%	18.8%	24.0%
Clerical Occupations	10.8%	11.1%	10.2%
Trades Helpers, Construction, and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations	7.3%	8.7%	4.1%
Mechanics	11.6%	10.2%	4.1%
Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers, Excl. Labourers	7.2%	6.3%	1.9%
Cashiers	4.6%	4.8%	9.2%
All Other Occupations	21.0%	21.5%	35.4%

*Not Elsewhere Classified
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2010, young workers aged 15 to 24 accounted for 20.5% of lost-time claims and 24.2% of disabling injury claims. However, both these numbers are below the estimated number of young workers employed in the Wholesale and Retail sector, at 27.1% (see Table 3.2).[1]

[1] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Wholesale and Retail Trade.

Table 3.2
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Age — Alberta: 2009-2010

Age	2009				2010			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	386	7.0%	816	8.7%	330	7.0%	777	9.0%
20-24 Years	743	13.6%	1,400	14.9%	635	13.5%	1,308	15.2%
25-34 Years	1,191	21.7%	2,169	23.1%	1,024	21.7%	2,021	23.4%
35-44 Years	1,161	21.2%	1,901	20.2%	972	20.6%	1,718	19.9%
45-54 Years	1,246	22.7%	1,974	21.0%	1,025	21.8%	1,724	20.0%
55-64 Years	640	11.7%	983	10.5%	612	13.0%	918	10.6%
65+ Years	109	2.0%	148	1.6%	112	2.4%	156	1.8%
Unspecified	3	N/A	3	N/A	0	N/A	4	N/A
Total	**5,479**	**100.0%**	**9,394**	**100.0%**	**4,710**	**100.0%**	**8,626**	**100.0%**

Note: Claims with unspecified age data have been removed from proportions.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2010, women and men were almost equally likely to be employed in the Wholesale and Retail sector (48.2% compared to 51.9%, respectively).[2] However, men accounted for 60.1% of lost-time claims and 62.6% of disabling injury claims, while women represented only 39.9% of lost-time claims and 37.4% of disabling injury claims (see Table 3.3).

Table 3.3
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2009-2010

Gender	2009				2010			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	2,147	39.2%	3,432	36.6%	1,877	39.9%	3,222	37.4%
Men	3,332	60.8%	5,948	63.4%	2,829	60.1%	5,382	62.6%
Unspecified	0	N/A	14	N/A	4	N/A	22	N/A
Total	**5,479**	**100.0%**	**9,394**	**100.0%**	**4,710**	**100.0%**	**8,626**	**100.0%**

Note: Claims with unspecified age data have been removed from proportions.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[2] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part in the Wholesale and Retail sector.

Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. In 2010, 94.6% of lost-time and 95.6% of disabling injury claims were traumatic injuries and disorders. The four most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, surface wounds and bruises, other traumatic injuries and disorders, and open wounds (see Table 4.1).

Note 6.1
Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information.
The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

Table 4.1
Nature of Injury or Disease — Wholesale and Retail: 2010

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**4,456**	**94.6%**	**8,249**	**95.6%**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	2,348	49.9%	4,595	53.3%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	603	12.8%	1,093	12.7%
Open Wounds	429	9.1%	931	10.8%
Fractures and Dislocations	376	8.0%	503	5.8%
Burns	74	1.6%	104	1.2%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	626	13.3%	1,023	11.9%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**215**	**4.6%**	**317**	**3.7%**
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**13**	**0.3%**	**17**	**0.2%**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**1**	**<0.1%**	**1**	**<0.1%**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**16**	**0.3%**	**17**	**0.2%**
Nature of Injury - Unknown	**9**	**0.2%**	**25**	**0.3%**
Total	**4,710**	**100.0%**	**8,626**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2010, the trunk accounted for 40.2% of lost-time and 39.9% of disabling injuries in the Wholesale and Retail sector, followed by upper extremities, at 22.0% and 27.9%, and lower extremities, at 20.6% and 18.7% (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2
Part of Body Injured — Wholesale and Retail: 2010

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Trunk	**1,895**	**40.2%**	**3,444**	**39.9%**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	1,276	27.1%	2,258	26.2%
Other Trunk	619	13.1%	1,186	13.7%
Upper Extremities	**1,038**	**22.0%**	**2,408**	**27.9%**
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	396	8.4%	938	10.9%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	361	7.7%	857	9.9%
Other Upper Extremities	281	6.0%	613	7.1%
Lower Extremities	**971**	**20.6%**	**1,617**	**18.7%**
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	432	9.2%	733	8.5%
Leg(s)	490	10.4%	801	9.3%
Other Lower Extremities	49	1.0%	83	1.0%
Head	**415**	**8.8%**	**551**	**6.4%**
Eye(s)	131	2.8%	169	2.0%
Other Head Parts	284	6.0%	382	4.4%
Neck, Including Throat	**102**	**2.2%**	**163**	**1.9%**
Body Systems	**27**	**0.6%**	**33**	**0.4%**
Multiple Body Parts	**261**	**5.5%**	**408**	**4.7%**
Part of Body - Unknown	**1**	**<0.1%**	**1**	**<0.1%**
Other Body Parts	**0**	**0.0%**	**1**	**<0.1%**
Total	**4,710**	**100.0%**	**8,626**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact with resulting in an injury or disease. The two primary sources of injury for the lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Wholesale and Retail sector in 2010 were containers, at 19.7% and 21.0% and persons, plants, animals, and minerals, at 19.8% and 20.0% respectively (see Table 4.3).

Table 4.3
Source of Injury or Disease — Wholesale and Retail: 2010

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**932**	**19.8%**	**1,728**	**20.0%**
Person-Injured or Ill Worker	813	17.3%	1,549	18.0%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	8	0.2%	11	0.1%
Person-Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	34	0.7%	50	0.6%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	77	1.6%	118	1.4%
Containers**	**927**	**19.7%**	**1,814**	**21.0%**
Structures and Surfaces	**784**	**16.6%**	**1,218**	**14.1%**
Parts and Materials	**513**	**10.9%**	**995**	**11.5%**
Vehicles	**385**	**8.2%**	**656**	**7.6%**
Machinery	**269**	**5.7%**	**493**	**5.7%**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**325**	**6.9%**	**719**	**8.3%**
Hand Tools - Nonpowered	177	3.8%	436	5.1%
Hand Tools - Powered	32	0.7%	58	0.7%
Other Tools and Equipment	116	2.5%	225	2.6%
Furniture and Fixtures	**236**	**5.0%**	**431**	**5.0%**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**58**	**1.2%**	**78**	**0.9%**
Other Sources	**222**	**4.7%**	**349**	**4.0%**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**59**	**1.3%**	**145**	**1.7%**
Total	**4,710**	**100.0%**	**8,626**	**100.0%**

*Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies workplace injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.
**Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.)
Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. Bodily reaction or exertion, and contact with objects and equipment were the two most common types of events or exposures that comprised 74.9% of lost-time claims and 79.5% of disabling injury claims in the Wholesale and Retail sector in 2010 respectively (see Table 4.4).

Table 4.4
Type of Event or Exposure — Wholesale and Retail: 2010

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injuries	%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	**2,231**	**47.4%**	**4,277**	**49.6%**
Overexertion	1,302	27.6%	2,504	29.0%
Bodily Reaction*	577	12.3%	1,040	12.1%
Repetitive Motion	176	3.7%	381	4.4%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	176	3.7%	352	4.1%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	**1,294**	**27.5%**	**2,576**	**29.9%**
Struck by Object	717	15.2%	1,378	16.0%
Struck against Object	246	5.2%	507	5.9%
Caught in Object	189	4.0%	415	4.8%
Rubbed or Abraded	43	0.9%	66	0.8%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	99	2.1%	210	2.4%
Falls	**794**	**16.9%**	**1,202**	**13.9%**
Fall on Same Level	552	11.7%	852	9.9%
Fall to Lower Level	201	4.3%	284	3.3%
Other Falls	41	0.9%	66	0.8%
Transportation Accidents	**163**	**3.5%**	**241**	**2.8%**
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**150**	**3.2%**	**193**	**2.2%**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**46**	**1.0%**	**61**	**0.7%**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	38	0.8%	50	0.6%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	8	0.2%	11	0.1%
Fires and Explosions	**11**	**0.2%**	**18**	**0.2%**
Type of Event - Unknown	**21**	**0.4%**	**58**	**0.7%**
Total	**4,710**	**100.0%**	**8,626**	**100.0%**

*Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Days-lost due to Disability

Over half of the claims resulted in days-lost of 10 days or less. Claims with one to five days lost represented 43.0% of all claims, and claims with six to ten days lost accounted for 14.6%. Claims resulting in days-lost of 51 days or more represented 9.4% of all claims in 2010 (see Table 4.5).

Table 4.5
Days-lost due to Disability — Alberta: 2009-2010

Days-lost due to Disability	2009		2010	
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%
1-5 Days	2,422	44.2%	**2,027**	**43.0%**
6-10 Days	763	13.9%	**690**	**14.6%**
11-15 Days	448	8.2%	**400**	**8.5%**
16-20 Days	273	5.0%	**230**	**4.9%**
21-30 Days	312	5.7%	**285**	**6.1%**
31-40 Days	242	4.4%	**177**	**3.8%**
41-50 Days	155	2.8%	**141**	**3.0%**
51 Days or More	540	9.9%	**443**	**9.4%**
Unspecified	324	5.9%	**317**	**6.7%**
Total	**5,479**	**100.0%**	**4,710**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2010 the WCB accepted seven fatalities in the Wholesale and Retail industries, accounting for 5.1% of all 136 fatalities in the province.

In 2010, six of the fatalities accepted by WCB were workplace incidents and one of seven fatalities accepted by WCB in the Wholesale and Retail industries was occupational disease incident (see Table 5.1).

Table 5.1

Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB – Alberta: 2006 - 2010

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident		Workplace Incident		Occupational Disease		Total
	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities
2006	2	20.0%	4	40.0%	4	40.0%	10
2007	3	27.3%	5	45.5%	3	27.3%	11
2008	5	38.5%	3	23.1%	5	38.5%	13
2009	2	20.0%	5	50.0%	3	30.0%	10
2010	**0**	**0.0%**	**6**	**85.7%**	**1**	**14.3%**	**7**
Total	12	23.5%	23	45.1%	16	31.4%	51

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2006 and 2010, the WCB accepted 51 fatalities in the Wholesale and Retail industries. The Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products sub-sector had the most with 25 fatalities, accounting for 49.0% of total fatalities (see Table 5.2). In the past five years, only one fatality has been reported in the Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment sub-sector.

Table 5.2
Wholesale and Retail Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB by Sub-Sector – Alberta: 2006-2010

Sub-Sector	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Number of Fatalities	%
Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers	2	3	4	3	**2**	14	27.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	1	1	0	1	**0**	3	5.9%
Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products	5	5	8	3	**4**	25	49.0%
Other Retail Services	0	0	0	1	**0**	1	2.0%
Wholesale Operations	0	2	0	2	**1**	5	9.8%
Yard and Home Improvement Centres	1	0	1	0	**0**	2	3.9%
Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment	1	0	0	0	**0**	1	2.0%
Wholesale and Retail Industries	**10**	**11**	**13**	**10**	**7**	**51**	**100.0 %**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are jointly issued by Certifying Partners and E&I.[3]

In 2010, about 3.5% of the Wholesale and Retail sector's employers were COR holders. These employers represented 26.9% of the total person-years worked in the Wholesale and Retail sector. In 2010, 10.5% of Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products employers had valid CORs, representing 48.9% of the total person-years worked in that sub-sector (see Table 6.1).

Table 6.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2010

Sub-Sector	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Worked Certified
Wholesale and Retail	**3.5%**	**26.9%**
Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers	2.0%	8.9%
Food and Beverage Stores	0.9%	42.6%
Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products	10.5%	48.9%
Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment	1.1%	10.1%
Wholesale Operations	2.3%	14.9%
Yard and Home Improvement Centres	6.9%	41.0%
Other Retail Services	0.7%	20.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[3] For more information on the COR program visit http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html

In 2010, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders in the Wholesale and Retail sector decreased by 19.3%. The disabling injury rates for both COR and non-COR employers decreased by 4.0% and 11.7%, respectively (see Table 6.2).

Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards, with this group seeing continued improvement in their lost-time claim rates. Some non-COR holders have good programs in place above this standard, whereas others do not. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for this group.

Table 6.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates for Wholesale and Retail COR Holders — Alberta: 2009-2010

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2009	697	1,899	4,085	2.33	5.02	-19.3%	-4.0%
	2010	701	1,530	3,928	1.88	4.82		
Non-COR	2009	19,429	3,641	5,228	1.67	2.40	-13.8%	-11.7%
	2010	19,469	3,180	4,698	1.44	2.12		

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

REFERENCES

Alberta Employment and Immigration. "Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta 2010 Summary"

Canadian Standards Association. Z795-03: Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information, June 2003.

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Wholesale and Retail Trade, 2010.

The Workers' Compensation Board. "Rate and Industry Description Manual,"

APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

Modified Work Claim

A modified work claim is a claim for an occupational injury or disease where a worker had their normal work duties altered to enable them to remain working without losing time from work. Also included are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease.

Disabling Injury Claim

Disabling injury (DI) claims combine both the lost-time and modified work concepts to produce an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables the worker causing either time-lost from work or for their normal work duties to be modified.

Person-Years Worked

Person-years worked are estimates provided by the WCB. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked. The person-years worked estimates in the *OID 2010 Wholesale and Retail Industries* report have been provided by the WCB back to 2006, thus previous years' OID Wholesale and Retail industries report numbers and rates will not be comparable.

Lost-Time Claim Rate

The lost-time claim rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-years worked estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, which will result in time lost from work. Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTC's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Disabling Injury Rate

The disabling injury rate is calculated by dividing the number of disabling injury claims by the person-years worked estimates, and multiplying the result by 100. The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year of work. The disabling injury rate is similar to the LTC rate although it covers a broader range of injuries, including those that are less severe in nature (do not require time away from work). The rate represents the number of claims per 100 person-years worked and includes claims made for both lost-time and modified work.

$$\text{Disabling Injury Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of DI's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Days-lost

The days-lost is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Employment and Immigration obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the days-lost information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease, although it provides a consistent method for reporting and observing trends in days-lost.

Industry Coverage

This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

N.E.C.

Not Elsewhere Classified

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out monthly by Statistics Canada. The objectives of the LFS have been to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications (employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force) and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories. Data from the survey provide information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates.

For the most part, annual LFS data has been analyzed alongside injury and disease information to aid the understanding of injury risk or frequency by worker type. The LFS uses a different industry classification from WCB, although there are similarities in structure. Where possible, the two data sources are used comparably and proportions (of totals) have been used to evaluate information generated from both sources. Using proportions attempts to overcome obvious distortions in the numbers in employment from both sources, although the impact on the proportions from industry coverage differences is unclear. In certain instances, monthly LFS micro-data files have been combined and used to produce proportion estimates for the whole year for particular sub-groups of the population.

For further information on the LFS, please see

http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/2599.html

APPENDIX B: WHOLESALE AND RETAIL INDUSTRIES WCB INDUSTRY CODES

1. Wholesale Operations

62900 – Wholesale with or without Warehousing
69916 – Wholesale Food Distribution

2. Food and Beverage Stores

63100 – Food/Convenience Stores
63103 – Butcher Shops/Home Provisioners
63105 – Liquor/Wine/Beer Sales Outlets
65406 – Gas Bar/Car Wash – No Auto Service

3. Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products

37902 – Chemical Products – Packaging/Distribution
52400 – Grain/Seed Handling Operations
60800 – Bulk Petroleum Dealers
62200 – Farm Implement Dealers
62201 – Mobile Equipment Dealers
62302 – Machinery/Equipment - Sales, Service, Repair (N.E.C.)
62303 – Industrial Supply Stores
69300 – Propane Dealers
86905 – Safety Equipment – Sale/Rental
89910 – Industrial and Oilfield Equipment – Rental

4. Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers

16300 – Tire Retreading
62701 – Auto Wreckers
65400 – Service Stations
65600 – Auto Dealers
65800 – Automobile Body Repair
65808 – General Automotive Repair
65809 – Electroplating Auto Parts
69912 – Trailers – Sales/ Rental with Service
69915 – Sport Vehicles – Sales/Service
89922 – Industrial Camp Trailers – Rental

5. Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment

33901 – Medical Equipment – Sales/Service
62300 – Office Equipment – Sales/Service
67602 – Entertainment Equipment – Sales/Service

6. Yard and Home Improvement Centres

25403 – Home Improvement Centres
62908 – Garden Centres
69301 – Coal/Wood Yards

7. Other Retail Services

62903 – Sales Operations (N.E.C.)
64200 – Department/General Stores
66300 – Shoe Stores
66900 – Clothing/Yard Goods Stores
67300 – Hardware/Auto Parts Stores/Etc.
67601 – Furniture Stores
67604 – Appliances – Sales/Service
67802 – Household Appliances – Service Only
68100 – Drug Stores
69100 – Book/Stationery Stores/Etc.
69200 – Florists – Retail/Wholesale
69500 – Jewellery Stores
69901 – Auctions (N.E.C.)
69904 – Novelty/Gift/Hobby Stores/Etc.
69914 – Pet/Seed/Feed Stores
86909 – Inventory Services
89100 – Travelling Sales/Manufacturing Agents
89908 – Small Equipment/Appliances - Rental

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Email: whs@gov.ab.ca

Employment and Immigration website:

http://employment.alberta.ca

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafe.alberta.ca

Occupational Health and Safety Contact Centre:

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690

http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/2874.html

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:

http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html